projects become operational. This evaluation will also indicate the response of Small Scale Industries to the scheme.

Relief to SSIs for promotion of Brand Names

2336. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry has urged the Government to provide relief to the small scale sector for promoting brand names;

(b) if so, whether the small scale sector industries in the country are unable to go ahead due to stiff competition and involvement of multinationals; and

(c) if so, the concrete steps Government propose to take to encourage SSIs in the country?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) Yes, Sir. PHD Chamber of Commerce & Industry has sent a representation to Chairman, Task Force, Central Board of Excise & Customs and its members on relief for the SSI sector including that on brand name concessions. The Government have examined the suggestions contained in the representation as part of the Budget exercise and it was not found possible to accede to them.

(b) Small scale sector enjoys protection in the form of reservation of items for exclusive manufacture in the SSI sector. No medium or large scale units including multinationals are allowed to enter into these areas except with stipulated export obligation. Besides, 409 items are reserved for exclusive purchase from Small scale sector. Small scale sector also gets priority sector lending and excise duty exemptions/concessions.

(c) Other steps taken for encouraging SSIs in the country are:

(i) Providing infrastructural support in integrated manner through Integrated Infrastructure Development Scheme.

(ii) Enhanced technology support for modernisation and quality upgradation.

(iii) Enhancement to Entrepreneurship Development Programme by involving voluntary agencies and strengthening Entrepreneurship Development institutes.

(iv) Enhancing the information and data base of SSI sector.

Decision regarding foreign equity participation in Indian ventures

2337. SHRI GOVINDRAO ADIK: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether in the liberalisation process there is a need for transparency in Government decisions and there is a lot of dillydallying by Government on taking decision for foreign equity participation in Indian ventures;

(b) if so, the details in this regard;

(c) whether the decision on projects are hassled through and no uniform policy decision has been taken on equity participation; and

(d) if so, will the Government come out with a clear-cut transparent policy in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) to (d) Need for transparency in Govt. decisions on FDI proposals is well recognised. Proposals for foreign direct investment are considered in a compressed time schedule. With a view to streamline the decision making and to bring greater transparency, the Govt. have revamped the foreign Investment Promotion Board (FIPB) and issued a set of guidelines for consideration of foreign direct investment proposals.